SUNDIN CHOICE COULD BE TOMORROW PG 14

The world's largest global newspaper
metro
VANCOUVER • TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2008 metronews.ca

Your Money

Stretch your dollar on the ring of choice

pg 13

Celebrity Buzz

Moss' beau wants quiet New Year's

pg 18

Vancouver area home sales drop significantly

REALTY Home sales dropped dramatically in Greater Vancouver last month, falling 69 per cent compared to last year, the Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver (REBGV) announced yesterday.

Dave Watt, REBGV president, said 874 homes were sold across Greater Vancouver in November 2008, compared to 2,883 sales during the same period last year.

"Residential benchmark prices across all properties declined 12 per cent between May and November of this year," Watt said in a podcast yesterday.

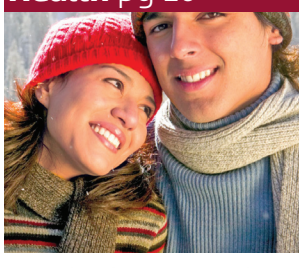
He added that across the Lower Mainland, it's taking longer for homes to sell compared to previous months.

"In Greater Vancouver, the days on market average for November was 64 days," Watt said. That's 20 more days than November 2007.

METRO VANCOUVER

ShareYourViews
vancouverletters@metronews.ca

Health pg 16



Holiday rush for hookups

Please recycle

Celebrating 8 years

Beauty Night

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Tlell Nazarko, right, gives Marguerite Roch a makeover during Beauty Night at the Life Skills Centre on the Downtown Eastside yesterday. Last night marked the charity's eighth year of helping boost the self-esteem of marginalized women. Story, page 3

Suspect on suicide watch

Charged with killing ex-boss, man 'not doing well'

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

A man accused of shooting his former boss at a Christmas party last week is on suicide watch and has not slept since Saturday morning, his lawyer told a provincial court judge yesterday.

Benjamin David Banky, CEO of natural-health-product supplier TallGrass Distribution, was shot and killed Friday during his company's Christmas party.

Eric Allen Kirkpatrick, 61, a former employee who is charged with the murder, made an initial appearance in a Vancouver courtroom yesterday.

Richard Fowler, Kirkpatrick's lawyer, told Justice Donna Senniw that his client had been unable to sleep in his cell at the North Fraser Pretrial Centre because he was double bunked with an inmate who is going through drug withdrawal.

Further, Fowler said the cell is "horribly cold" and that his client had not yet been provided a blanket.

In court, Kirkpatrick, who has a grey beard and long grey hair that reaches midway down his back, listened without showing emotion. He was dressed in a prisoner's red T-shirt and pants. He is scheduled to return to court on Dec. 29 for arraignment.

"He's not doing very well," said Fowler, outside the courthouse. "The problem is that these institutions are too full. He's presumed innocent and should be treated better."

Fowler said the incident was a tragedy and said the attention it is receiving is understandable.

VANCOUVER
2010 **Games**

VANOC on budget and on schedule

FINANCIAL REPORT Corporate sponsors for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics, including General Motors Corp., remain up to date on their payments, despite the global economic turmoil, organizers said.

VANOC announced yesterday that more than 90 per cent of the sponsorship deals included in the $1.6-billion operating budget have been secured, but most of the major agreements were signed before the economic crisis erupted and not all of the money has been received.

"We'd be naive to assume they (sponsors) are immune to (the economic downturn) and that some of them won't face challenges," VANOC chief financial officer John McLaughlin said.

VANOC released its financial report yesterday for its fiscal year ended Oct. 31, showing it was still on budget and on schedule for venue construction.

Among the key sponsors is struggling automaker General Motors, which has promised to supply hundreds of vehicles for use during the Games.

"If something happens and circumstances change, we will deal with them at the time," said David Cobb, VANOC's executive vice-president.

Last month, the International Olympic Committee made a $71.6-million payment to VANOC that had been scheduled for March, a change the Vancouver organizers said would help them avoid some planned borrowing. REUTERS

ALL PRESCRIPTIONS!
LASIK $490/eye
Conventional LASIK or PRK
DR. JOSEPH KING
Over 50,000 LASIK procedures performed
More than 10 years experience in BC
CLEARLY LASIK
FREE EXAMS!
Located in Metrotown, Tower 1, 10th Floor (Next to Skytrain station), Burnaby • 1.877.551.2020 • clearlylasik.com

Free Daily News Group Inc., operating as Metro Vancouver Newspapers 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 2X6. Publisher: Maryse Lalonde

Mistletoe or not, with deals this good, you'll want to kiss somebody.

For a limited time, get three amazing offers in one great sale.

Visit a Bell store • 1 888 4-MOBILE • bell.ca

50%OFF select smartphones[1] **+ 50%OFF** rate plans for 3 months[1] **+ $50** accessories credit[2]

3G BlackBerry® Curve™ 8330 smartphone

$49.95

with a $45 voice and data plan on a 3-yr. term[3] ($549.95 no term)

3G Samsung Instinct™

$49.95

with a $100 Fun bundle discount on a 3-yr. term[4] ($399.95 no term)

Samsung Cleo™

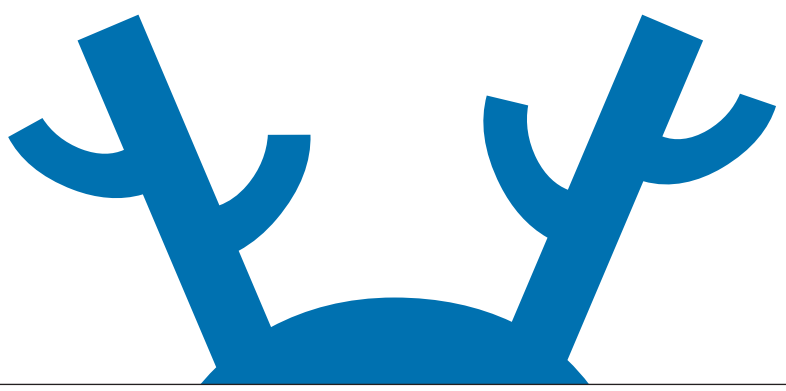
$24.95

on a 3-yr. term[2] ($274.95 no term)

LG Rumour™

$0

on a 3-yr. term[1] ($249.95 no term)



Bell shopping just got better

Also available at these retailers: CAMPBELL RIVER Pure Wireless; COURTENAY Pure Wireless; DUNCAN VI Cellular; MISSION Valley Toys Ltd; WHISTLER WSC Communications; Costco Wholesale; booth the telephone booth; WIRELESS etc...; WIRELESSWAVE

Offer ends December 24, 2008. Available with compatible devices within Bell Mobility high speed mobile network coverage areas. Other monthly fees, i.e., e9-1-1 (75¢), system access (not a government fee) ($8.95), and one-time device activation ($35) apply. Long distance and roaming charges (including foreign taxes) may apply outside your local area. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. **(1)** With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. **(2)** With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. Rebate applies on accessories before taxes in-store, on the Web or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. **(3)** With new activation on a monthly voice plan and a data feature with a total min. value of $45/mo. **(4)** With new activation on a monthly voice plan with a min. Fun 15 bundle. Rebate applies on device before taxes in-store, on the Web or on the account otherwise; allow 4 to 6 weeks. You must keep the Fun bundle for 12 months after activation, otherwise a one-time data service price adjustment of $99 will be charged on your account. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Samsung Instinct and Samsung Cleo are trademarks of Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd., and its related entities. Rumour is a trademark of LG Electronics Inc.

Available at the following Bell stores:

LOWER MAINLAND

ABBOTSFORD
- 31935 South Fraser Way
- Sevenoaks Shopping Centre

BURNABY
- Brentwood Town Centre
- Kensington Square
- Lougheed Mall
- Marine Way Market
- Metrotown Centre
- Metropolis at Metrotown
- Metropolis at Metrotown kiosk

CHILLIWACK
- Cottonwood Mall

COQUITLAM
- Coquitlam Centre

CRANBROOK
- First Pro Cranbrook

DELTA
- Scottsdale Centre

DAWSON CREEK
- 600 113TH AVE

FORT ST. JOHN
- 8820-100th St.
- Totem Mall

LANGLEY
- Walnut Gate
- Willowbrook Corner
- Willowbrook Mall

MAPLE RIDGE
- Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER
- Queensborough Landing

PITT MEADOWS
- Meadowtown Centre

RICHMOND
- 3675 Westminster Hwy
- Aberdeen Centre
- Blundell Centre
- Richmond Centre
- Sands Plaza

SQUAMISH
- 40446 Government Rd.

SURREY
- 10362 King George Hwy
- 13630 72 Ave.
- Guildford Town Centre
- Nordel Crossing
- Panorama Village
- Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

VANCOUVER
- 567 Seymour St.
- 698 West Broadway
- 1008 West Georgia St.
- 1100 Robson St.
- 1588 West Broadway
- 1709 Lonsdale Ave.
- 2154 West 4th
- 2315 West 41st
- Bentall Centre
- Capilano Mall
- Chinatown Plaza
- Lynn Valley
- Oakridge Centre
- Pacific Centre
- Park Royal N.
- Park Royal S.

OKANAGAN

CASTELGAR
- 635 Columbia Ave.

KAMLOOPS
- Aberdeen Mall
- Inside Real Canadian Superstore
- Lansdowne Village

KELOWNA
- 948 McCurdy Rd
- Dilworth Shopping Centre
- Orchard Park Shopping Centre

PENTICTON
- Peachtree Square

PRINCE GEORGE
- Pine Centre

QUESNEL
- 259 Reid St.

VERNON
- 4710 31 St. Unit 106
- Village Green Mall

WILLIAMS LAKE
- Boitanio Mall

VANCOUVER ISLAND

NANAIMO
- Country Club Centre
- Woodgrove Centre

VICTORIA
- Bay Centre
- Hillside Shopping Centre
- Mayfair Shopping Centre
- Westshore Town Centre

Human rights tribunal rejects breastfeeding complaint against store
The B.C. Human Rights Tribunal has rejected the complaint of a Vancouver woman who said H&M discriminated against her for breastfeeding in the store. The company, which allows breastfeeding in stores, apologized for what it called a misunderstanding. CKNW.COM

Local

Linden tribute going on big screen

Trevor Linden Night will be broadcast on the 25-foot LED screen outside Canada Place tomorrow night. The broadcast begins at 6 p.m. and includes the Canucks-Oilers match that follows the ceremony. METRO VANCOUVER

A beautiful tradition

Volunteers give low-income women a night of pampering

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

An important weekly tradition for many low-income women — one that gives them free makeovers and a night of pampering — celebrated its eighth birthday last night.

Beauty Night is held every Monday at the Life Skills Centre on East Cordova Street. Volunteers give manicures, facials, massages, haircuts and makeovers, and last night also distributed snacks and stockings stuffed with beauty products and toiletries.

Toni Defant, who comes to Beauty Night every week, said all women, regardless of their financial and social standing, like to feel pampered and beautiful.

In some ways, she added, marginalized women need it more.

"It reduces your stress (and) it's an outing," Defant said. "It makes women happy to come here. They're getting spoiled."

Marguerite Roch said she comes to Beauty Night to get made up and "talk with the girls." She said she doesn't know what she'd do without that tradition to look forward to.

"I'd stay home and get bored," Roch said.

Caroline MacGillavray, Beauty Night founder, said the program gives many marginalized women a sense of dignity.

"We deal with women who have dealt with a lot of violence, and some of them are dealing with homelessness, poverty and illness," she said. "(The makeovers) break down isolation because (the women) are talking to people. And we're able to refer them to other service providers."

Beauty Night

- Beauty Night has provided more than 10,000 makeovers in the last eight years.
- Women at last night's celebration were also given scarves knitted by Knit Fit, a charity run by local high school students.

Tourism hopes hinge on park restoration

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson helps unveil a monument to Stanley Park donors at Prospect Point yesterday. A total of $10.8 million was raised for the park.

STANLEY The silver lining in a massive windstorm that flattened thousands of trees in Stanley Park is glittering just around the corner for one local restaurateur.

Daniel Frankel, the CEO and president of the Daniel Hospitality Group, is hopeful the restored park will draw tourists and locals alike to the iconic Prospect Point restaurant and café, which has seen a 50 per cent drop in business since the storm.

"We had a horrible year," said Frankel yesterday, following a ceremony that marked the two-year anniversary of the windstorm. "It looked like a construction site, so nobody was stopping by."

A monument honouring the donors who helped with the restoration was unveiled at Prospect Point yesterday.

In all, $10.8 million was raised for the park.

Frankel, who co-chaired a park gala that raised $150,000, said the restoration is spectacular and he hopes it will help locals rediscover Prospect Point, one of Canada's busiest tourist destinations. It draws more than four million visitors annually.

The Santa Clause 2
cbc.ca/holiday
Tonight at 8 CBC

Man accused of shooting puppy pleads not guilty

COURT The man accused of shooting and killing a Quadra Island boy's puppy pleaded not guilty through his lawyers yesterday.

Cody Wellard, 31, has been accused of shooting 12-year-old Max Rose's Jack Russell terrier, Seymour, who he was given after finishing cancer treatment.

Wellard told police the shooting was an accident.

Nick Rose, Max's father, said the plea has made him angrier than he was when Seymour was shot.

"It's pretty hard to explain to your kids how he can plead not guilty," said Rose. KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Arrest made in gas-stop robbery

SHOOTING A man has been arrested for allegedly shooting two gas-station attendants during a robbery, Surrey RCMP said yesterday.

Shane Gidon, 21, is charged with attempted murder for the November shootings. Gidon was one of eight people arrested yesterday after police were called to a Surrey apartment. Sgt. Roger Morrow said a machine gun was found and four suspects tried to escape over a second-storey balcony. KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Car thefts down by 44% since '97: Study

RATE The rate of car theft in metro Vancouver has gone down 43.8 per cent since 1997, according to a Statistics Canada report.

That's higher than the national rate, which was 25 per cent; the city ranked 12th out of Canadian cities.

Abbotsford had the second-highest rate of auto theft in 2007, after Winnipeg. KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

FITNESS The Richmond Oval is offering fitness programs for toddlers and adults from Jan. 5 until Feb. 25, 2009, a spokesperson for the venue said yesterday. Free public skating sessions are also available daily until Dec. 21, 2009. For more info, visit richmondoval.ca.

HORSES The second of six emaciated horses rescued from a Langley property has died, the SPCA said yesterday. The horses were seized after one was found being used to pull a car out of a ditch. That horse had to be euthanized. METRO NEWS SERVICES

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Read It may sound scary, but borrowing to invest can be a sound strategy at **metronews.ca/investing**

Video Jim Flaherty admits economic situation is worse than predicted a month ago at **metronews.ca/canada**

Since our members fund our members, you have a financial shoulder to lean on. Actually, it's more like 400,000 shoulders.

Vancity

Caroline Kennedy seeks Clinton's Senate seat: Sharpton
Caroline Kennedy, the daughter of former U.S. president John F. Kennedy, is pursuing Hillary Clinton's Senate seat, civil-rights activist Al Sharpton said yesterday. **REUTERS**

Canada/World

Deficit needed: PM

Prime Minister Stephen Harper says the Conservative government will have to run a budget deficit to bring in billions of dollars worth of recovery programs for the economy.

"We're going to have to run a deficit, do some spending measures we hadn't planned on doing." PM Stephen Harper

"We're talking about spending billions of dollars," he told CTV's Atlantic affiliate in a preview of the Jan. 27 budget.

"We're going to have to run a deficit, do some spending measures we hadn't planned on doing, but I think, if we do those things, we should be able to come out of this (economic downturn) pretty strong in due course."

Earlier, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty met with senior Liberals to discuss the possible contents of the budget. Liberal MP John McCallum said during the closed door meeting Flaherty admitted economic forecasts in his November update were too optimistic. and now appears more inclined toward bringing in an economic stimulus package than in months past.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Greece **Protests continue into second week**

YIORGOS KARAHALIS/REUTERS

Protesters kick a policeman who detained another protester during clashes outside the police headquarters in central Athens yesterday. Police fired tear gas at small groups of protesters who threw stones in the second week of anti-government demonstrations since a policeman shot dead a teenager.

Big Three's fate could be decided tomorrow

BAILOUT The Bush administration could act as early as tomorrow to approve an automaker bailout from its bank rescue fund, with conditions likely to reflect at least those approved by the House last week, key lawmakers and other sources said yesterday.

A Treasury Department official said the agency and auto company executives continued to review financial and other information, and that no decision had been made. The White House is actively involved in the matter, officials said.

Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said, however, the government would have to be satisfied the industry could survive and compete in order to receive help.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat, says the administration will likely use part of the $700-billion US fund established in October to stabilize the financial services sector, rather than pushing the companies into bankruptcy, as some lawmakers have urged. **REUTERS**

News in brief

HOLLINGER David Radler, longtime pal of Conrad Black, who rose alongside Black to wealth and power then turned against his former boss, was handed full parole yesterday after serving 10 months of his 29-month sentence for fraud.

ECONOMY The federal government, under pressure to aid a slowing economy, has asked the provinces to submit infrastructure projects that can get underway quickly, officials said.

HEALTH Colonoscopies are only effective at catching cancer that develops on the left side of the colon, says a study published yesterday. Researchers say that while the test is valuable, it only catches about one per cent of cancers on the right side.

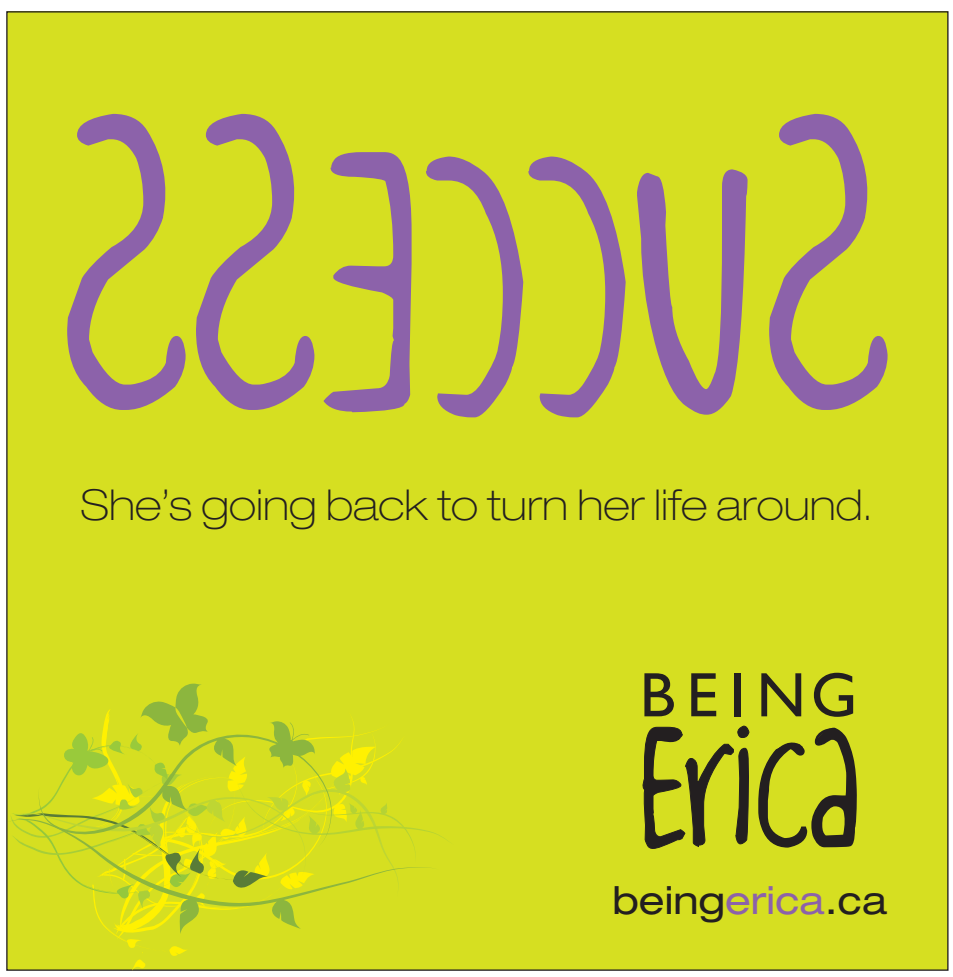
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Turn your college business diploma into a Bachelor of Commerce degree through our **Degree Completion program.**

Fast-track your MBA with our intensive **One-Year program** taught on campus. Or continue your career and upgrade your education through online learning and a short "on-campus" residency with our **Accelerated** and **Two-Year online programs**.

TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
604-288-9899 or **VISIT**
WWW.UNIVERSITYCANADAWEST.CA

UNIVERSITY CANADA WEST



Get a bundle you can bank on.

Most reliable home phone‡ | Most choice in long distance | Most secure High Speed access**

Save over 15%* with a bundle you can bank on.

From $54.95/mo.* for 1 year, with 1 month FREE†.

TELUS

the future is friendly®

Call 310-1144 or visit telus.com/bundle or your nearest TELUS authorized dealer.

*Offer available until December 31, 2008 to residential clients in select locations. Starting on month 13 bundle rate will be $59.95/month. Prices may vary for existing clients on a TELUS Long Distance or High Speed Internet service agreement. †1 month of free services available to clients who have not subscribed to TELUS High Speed Internet in the past 90 days. Minimum system requirements apply. ‡Based on total service disruptions and outages experienced by clients in the past year. **Defined as the most comprehensive suite of hardware and software security tools. © 2008 TELUS.

TELUS AUTHORIZED DEALERS

LOWER MAINLAND

Vancouver
551 Robson St.
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
2163 West 4th Ave.
501 West Georgia St.
101 - 925 West Georgia St.
5720 East Blvd.
689 Thurlow St.
3 - 1855 Burrard St.
3343 West Broadway
2748 Rupert St.
1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway

Aldergrove
310 - 26310 Fraser Hwy.

Abbotsford
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre
2 - 32915 South Fraser Way
1 - 2142 Clearbrook Rd.
401 - 2140 Sumas Way

Burnaby
Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
214B - 4501 North Rd.
4711 Kingsway
7531 Market Crossing
111 - 3823 Henning Dr.
204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
103 - 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 - 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale
201 - 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

Delta
Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows
735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

Aberdeen Mall (Kamloops)
Northills Centre (Kamloops)
Orchard Park Mall (Kelowna)
Spall Plaza (Kelowna)
Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Penticton)
Pine Centre (Prince George)
Piccadilly Mall (Salmon Arm)
Village Green Mall (Vernon)

Whistler
7009 Nesters Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.

LOCAL
Publisher, Maryse Lalonde
Managing Editor, Fernando Carneiro
Distribution Mgr., George Acimovic

NATIONAL
Group Publisher, Bill McDonald
Editor-in-Chief, Dianne Rinehart
Art Director, Laila Hakim
National Sales Director, Susan Courtney
Interactive/Marketing Dir., Jodi Brown

Comment & Views

Comment

Are we still a colony?

National**Report**

Lawrence Martin

It isn't over yet. The Harper government's unfathomable fumble — the fiscal update fiasco — has wreaked much havoc. But more is to come.

At the moment the prorogation of Parliament happened, it looked like the Governor General and the prime minister would get a pass. The country was awash in indignation over the prospect of the Bloc Québécois being part of a new coalition government. Stephen Harper, the prime minister who granted Quebec nation status, was nevertheless able to do a brilliant job of demonizing the Bloc and framing the debate around the separatist issue.

But now that the dust is settling, a settling of accounts could be in store.

Recall what happened. In a closed-door meeting, the Governor General, at the behest of the prime minister, shut down Parliament to save him from a confidence vote and the certain defeat of his government.

It's what's known as democracy Canadian-style. Writing from Paris in The Ottawa Citizen, Keith Spicer summed up the charade as "Zimbabwe run by the Queen." Abroad, he said, Canada is being mocked as a colony. In the Globe and Mail, Peter C. Newman called it "our recent test run as a banana republic." On the CBC, Allan Gregg invoked the Robert Mugabe comparison.

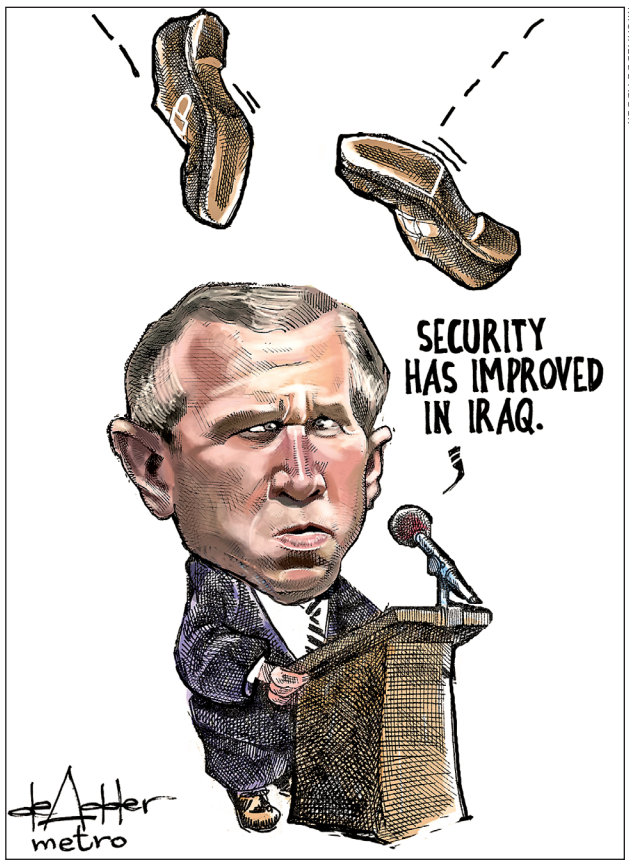
How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever?

They and many others wonder something. How could a decision as critical as this one be made by a Queen's representative with no public accountability whatsoever? Who was in the room? What kind of pressure did Harper bring to bear? What about the suggestion that advisers for each side had basically agreed on the outcome before Harper even entered Rideau Hall that day?

As for Michaëlle Jean, she and her Monarchic ways are taking a hit. She may have made the right call on prorogation. But is she too regal to come forward and speak to her subjects about it? Are we not beyond century No. 17?

In short order, after the coming budget, she could well be making another decision of equal magnitude for the country. Her office shouldn't be allowed to treat us like a bunch of patsies bowing at the feet of her closed-door proclamations.

Lawrence Martin is a Globe and Mail correspondent and author who writes about national affairs from Ottawa.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

The deception behind indigenous cultural preservation

Frances Widdowson & Albert Howard

In current discussions about aboriginal policy, it is generally assumed that land claims and self-government are the best way to address native grievances and achieve social justice.

This policy direction, however, was not initiated by native people themselves; it has resulted from a long historical process, whereby non-aboriginal missionaries, consultants, lawyers and anthropologists have proposed initiatives that act to maintain aboriginal marginalization. This "aboriginal industry" thrives on Aboriginal misery because native isolation from the mainstream ensures that a large segment of the aboriginal population will be perpetually in need of "help."

The processes advocated by the aboriginal industry maintain aboriginal isolation because it encourages people to look backward to a romanticized past rather than focusing on the future.

Aboriginal traditions, in fact, are viable only in the context of hunting and gathering or horticulture — economic systems that are much smaller, less productive and simpler in organization than those found in modern states. If Aboriginal Peoples are to enjoy a high standard of living and the choice of participating in a variety of occupations, this cannot be facilitated by revitalizing customs associated with an earlier period of human history.

Developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address aboriginal deprivation.

The reactionary character of these initiatives has not been recognized because aboriginal industry inspired research disguises the undeveloped nature of aboriginal traditions; accusations of racism are then deployed to attack anyone who dares to question the deception that is being perpetrated. Developing an understanding of the actual results of indigenous cultural preservation cannot occur because intimidation and self-censorship are smothering debate.

Acknowledging the developmental difference between hunting and gathering and modern economies is also avoided because it is contrived as being demeaning to native people. The recognition that pre-contact aboriginal cultures lacked technologies such as iron, the wheel and a written language, and that this contributed to their eventual economic and political subordination, is seen as justifying the terrible harm that resulted from colonization. But identifying the factors that have enabled one group to oppress another does not justify the result. Instead, developing a more comprehensive understanding of historical circumstances is necessary to effectively address aboriginal deprivation.

In fact, the lack of candour in discussions about aboriginal dependency precludes the development of a strategy to address it.

Instead of investigating how government programs can be designed to encourage Aboriginal Peoples' participation in the wider society, it is now maintained that they should cultivate their own "justice," "science," and "medicine" in isolation from modern requirements.

This bolsters the diversion of funds to the aboriginal industry and opportunistic native leaders, while the majority of the aboriginal population remains mired in poverty and despair.

Frances Widdowson is a faculty member in the department of policy studies at Mount Royal College, and Albert Howard is a teacher and writer. Both live in Calgary.

Letters

Would Americans trade Dubbya for Elizabeth?

It's unfortunate Mr. Sullivan has no understanding of the Canadian constitution or the parliamentary system we have here. (Dec. 10)

Does he really think an elected president would be unaffected by politics or be unbiased when rendering constitutional decisions? Have a look south of the border.

The Governor General exercises her prerogative powers in strict adherence to constitutional law and parliamentary precedence. The antics of our politicians over the past few weeks clearly show that leaving things to them is a recipe for chaos.

As a media consultant, Mr. Sullivan should know that the majority of Canadians who understand the issues would reject his idea of "republicanism." Just ask any American — they would gladly trade Dubbya for Elizabeth any day.

JOHN TAGG, TORONTO

Invest money to create a Canadian auto industry

Why rescue the Big Three? Ford, General Motors and Chrysler are on the verge of bankruptcy.

If we are going to spend billions of dollars on the auto industry, it should be used to build our own auto manufacturing industry and use Canadian ingenuity to compete on the world stage.

As a Canadian taxpayer, I would prefer that my money be invested in starting a new, innovative auto industry rather than going to supporting jobs in the U.S.

ARCHIE MCLACHLAN, BRAMPTON, ONT.

Queen should not have been dragged into political arena

To say that I was appalled at Paul Sullivan's article (Dec. 10) on the absolution of the monarchy is an understatement. The Queen's role in a constitutional monarchy, which we are in Canada, is to "warn, encourage and to advise" and not dictate as your article purported.

Mr. Sullivan has drawn the monarch into a political arena where she does not belong. The sovereignty is above politics and acts as a safeguard in our system.

REGINA SILVA ROBINSON, TORONTO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. E-mail your thoughts and opinions to: vancouverletters@metronews.ca
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

METRO Vancouver 1190 Homer Street, Suite 250, Vancouver, BC V6B 2X6, Tel: 604-602-1002; Fax: 1-866-254-6504; Advertising: 604-602-1002 • adinfovancouver@metronews.ca; vancouver_distribution@metronews.ca; News: fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

WE HAVE AMAZING DEALS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON.

We're not called "so-low" for nothing.

LG Rumour™

BlackBerry® Pearl™ 8130 smartphone

Samsung Cleo™

Up to $75 off select phones[1] ▪ Plans as low as $15 a month
No System Access Fee[2] ▪ No Connection Charge[2]

solomobile.ca 1 877 999-SOLO

Solo™ mobile

Available at the following Solo Mobile kiosks:

BURNABY
Brentwood Town Centre
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown

RICHMOND
Richmond Centre

VANCOUVER
Oakridge Centre

Available at the following Bell stores:

ABBOTSFORD
31935 South Fraser Way
Sevenoaks Shopping Centre

BURNABY
Brentwood Town Centre
Kensington Square
Lougheed Mall
Marine Way Market
Metropolis at Metrotown
Metropolis at Metrotown – kiosk

CASTLEGAR
635 Columbia Ave.

CHILLIWACK
Cottonwood Mall

COQUITLAM
Coquitlam Centre

CRANBROOK
First Pro Cranbrook

DELTA
Scottsdale Centre

DAWSON CREEK
600 – 113th Avenue

FORT ST. JOHN
8820 – 100th St.

KAMLOOPS
Aberdeen Mall
Inside Real Canadian Superstore
Lansdowne Village

KELOWNA
948 McCurdy Rd.
Dilworth Shopping Centre
Orchard Park

LANGLEY
Walnut Gate
Willowbrook Corner
Willowbrook Mall

MAPLE RIDGE
Haney Place Mall

NANAIMO
Country Club Centre
Woodgrove Centre

NEW WESTMINSTER
Queensborough Landing

PITT MEADOWS
Meadowtown Centre

PENTICTON
Peachtree Centre

PRINCE GEORGE
Pine Centre

QUESNEL
259 Reid St.

RICHMOND
3675 Westminster Hwy
Aberdeen Centre
Blundell Centre
Richmond Centre
Sands Plaza

SQUAMISH
40446 Government Rd.

SURREY
13630 – 72 Ave.
Guildford Town Centre
Nordel Crossing
Panorama Village
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre

VANCOUVER
567 Seymour St.
698 West Broadway
1008 West Georgia St.
1100 Robson St.
1588 West Broadway
1709 Lonsdale Ave.
2154 West 4th
2315 West 41st
Bentall Centre
Capilano Mall
Chinatown Plaza
Lynn Valley
Oakridge Centre
Pacific Centre
Park Royal North
Park Royal South

VERNON
Railway Plaza
Village Green Mall
4710 – 31st St.

WILLIAMS LAKE
Boitano Mall

VICTORIA
Bay Centre
Hillside Shopping Centre
Mayfair Shopping Centre
Westshore Town Centre

Also available at:

COSTCO WHOLESALE
booth the telephone booth
WAL★MART WE SELL FOR LESS, EVERY DAY™
WIRELESS etc...
((WIRELESSWAVE))

Available with compatible devices within Solo Mobile network coverage areas. Subject to change without notice; not combinable with other offers. Upon early termination, price adjustment charges apply. Taxes extra. Other conditions apply. [1] With new activation on a 3-yr. contract on a monthly voice plan. [2] With new activation. BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, SureType®, SurePress™ and related trademarks, names and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Solo and Solo Mobile are trademarks of Bell Mobility Inc.

Odwalla and vitaminwater going calorie-free
Coca-Cola is expected to launch a drink in the U.S. this week containing rebiana, a natural, calorie-free sweetener. Though it hasn't yet been approved, Coke is expected to put it into its Odwalla juices, vitaminwater and smartwater drinks. **REUTERS**

Business

DOLLAR		
1.27¢	C$	81.19¢ US
	US$	$1.2317

OIL	
$44.51 US	
$1.77	

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Correction in condo market coming, economist predicts

Prominent Toronto housing economist Will Dunning is warning of a "substantial correction" in the city's overheated condominium market.

The impact will be felt particularly in the condominium market, says Dunning. By the end of September, the economist estimates there were a looming 33,919 condos under construction in the Toronto census metropolitan area.

"This very large pending inventory is setting the stage for a substantial correction," he said in a sobering report looking at the rental and condo market. Toronto condominium starts are normally in the 10,000 to 12,000 range annually, but a bottleneck in construction from record sales in prior years has a significant number of units still to be completed, according to the analyst.

Finicky condo investors are already beginning to sell in central Toronto, up by 75 per cent in November compared to a year earlier, he says. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Automotive slump a boon for fuel cell-makers

AUTOS Fuel-cell pioneers are benefiting from the global decline in vehicle sales.

The platinum used to make catalytic converters that control emissions from car tailpipes are now at a surplus as demand for automobiles shrinks. The metal, now much cheaper, is being redirected to create the catalyst for chemical reactions in fuel cells for hydrogen cars.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

TOYS Mattel Inc. reached a $12-million US settlement with 39 U.S. states over lead-tainted toys that prompted a health scare in 2007. Last year, Mattel recalled more than 18 million toys made in China because of hazards related to magnets and lead paint. No children were believed to have been harmed by the toys. **REUTERS**

the new fido™

GIVING LOW PRICES a good home

C’mon inside
new plans & great deals

NEW PLANS FROM

$15 PER MONTH

AND **NO SYSTEM ACCESS FEES**

PLANS

Include Call Waiting, Conference Call and blanket coverage from coast to coast

FULLFIDO™

Finally, plans with all you need[1] in the city. Click **fido.ca** for coverage in your area.

Monthly fees	$15	$20	$25	$35	$50	$70	$40	$60
Minutes[2] Billed by the second	50	50	100	250	600	2,000	2,000 (over 1 h/day)	4,000 (over 2 h/day)
Text messages sent[3]	50	50	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited
Text messages received[4]	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free	Free
Evenings & Weekends[5] Weeknights from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m. and weekends from Friday 7 p.m. to Monday 8 a.m.		Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited		

A one-time activation fee of $35 per line applies.[6]

As a Fido monthly subscriber, you can save up to 15% when you combine your wireless service with eligible Rogers™ services.[7]

If you share our concern for the environment, please use online billing. It'll not only help save our forests, it'll save you money too. For a paper invoice there'll be a $2 charge per month, which will be donated to plant trees. **Visit fido.ca/billing**

$0 GET A PHONE on the house

With 2-year Fido™ Agreement

And all this Fidocare is on the house

1. WE HAVE NO EXTRA MONTHLY FEES

With Fido's new plans, there are no system access or extra network fees. And without these extra charges, your monthly bill will be easier to live with.

2. WE HELP YOU CONTROL YOUR BILL

If your budget is tight, don't worry. We'll proactively send you a free text message after you hit 75% and 100% of your plan's allotted local minutes.

3. CHOOSE THE COMMITMENT THAT WORKS FOR YOU

We don't want you to feel locked in. That's why you can choose a 2-year Fido™ Agreement or no agreement at all, if you're not into commitments. All this, on just about every one of our phones. Plus feel free to change your plan any time.

4. WE GIVE BACK EVERY TIME YOU USE YOUR PHONE

You'll earn FidoDollars™ every time you use your phone which can help you upgrade to a new phone sooner. At Fido, we never take your loyalty for granted.

iPhone 3G

Some stockings have all the luck.

Only

$199

on select 3-year plans[8]

BRING IT ALL HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

› New plans from $15 per month

› Phones at $0

› New Owner's guarantee

SHOP AT FIDO.CA
Drop by a store
Call 1-888-766-3436

FIDO STORES

VANCOUVER
483 Robson Street
Pacific Centre
Oakridge Centre
Park Royal Shopping Centre, West Vancouver

BURNABY
Brentwood Mall
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Royal Oak Fido Store

LANGLEY
Willowbrook Shopping Mall

PORT COQUITLAM
Coquitlam Centre

RICHMOND
Richmond Centre

SURREY
Guildford Town Centre

EXCLUSIVE DEALERS

VANCOUVER

B MOBILE
665 Robson Street

CELLULAR BABY
1191 Robson Street
2460 Heather Street
Capilano Mall, North Vancouver
City Square Mall, Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre, West Vancouver

JC TELECOMMUNICATIONS
1238 Robson Street

KINGSWAY MOBILE
1463 Kingsway Avenue

PEPPER WIRELESS
First Avenue Market, Unit 102
3189 Main Street

SKYNET
Arbutus Village
8269 Granville Street
6338 Fraser Street

UNIPAGE
Royal Centre
3565 Kingsway
88 West Pender Street

WIRELESS WORLD
6596 Victoria Drive

ABBOTSFORD

GENERATION WIRELESS
Seven Oaks Mall

SKYNET
Meadow Fair Plaza

WIRELESS WORLD
32330 South Fraser Way, Unit 4

BURNABY

CELLULAR BABY
Lougheed Town Centre
Metropolis at Metrotown
Metrotown Centre

PEPPER WIRELESS
Crystal Mall

UNIPAGE
Crystal Mall
Metrotown Centre

WIRELESS WORLD
Hannam Supermarket, 4501 North Road #106

COQUITLAM

SKYNET
101A – 2748 Lougheed Highway

UNIPAGE
Henderson Mall

DELTA

WIRELESS WORLD
Scottsdale Mall

MAPLE RIDGE

SKYNET
Haney Place Mall

NEW WESTMINSTER

PEPPER WIRELESS
Royal City Centre

RICHMOND

CELLULAR BABY
Richmond Centre

PEPPER WIRELESS
Yaohan Centre
Lansdowne Centre
Aberdeen Centre
Richmond Public Market

SKYNET
4020 No 5 Road

UNIPAGE
Aberdeen Centre
Lansdowne Centre
Parker Place

SURREY

NONI WIRELESS PLUS
Peninsula Village
6926 King George Hwy
Real Canadian Superstore, 7550 King George Hwy

102 - 6955 – 128th Street

PEPPER WIRELESS
Central City Shopping Centre

SKYNET
7500 Scott Road, Unit 104
9182 – 120th Street

UNIPAGE
Central City Shopping Centre

WIRELESS WORLD
1 - 8388 – 128th Street
3 - 13634 – 104th Avenue
12845 – 96th Avenue

FUTURE SHOP

BEST BUY

WIRELESSWAVE

WAL★MART

1. Local airtime minutes apply only within the **FULL**FIDO zone; additional minutes inside your zone and airtime used for calls made and received outside your **FULL**FIDO zone cost 35¢ per minute. **2.** Applies to local airtime minutes only. Each additional minute costs 35¢. **3.** Applies to messages sent from Canada to a Canadian wireless number. **4.** Text messages received from another mobile phone are free. There is a charge per text message received via E-mail to your Fido and for premium text messages (alerts, messages related to content, contests and promotions). **5.** Local calls only, excluding calls made through Call Forwarding (20¢/min.), Video Calling (35¢/min.), or similar services. **6.** If you are subscribed to a Fido monthly plan offered before November 4, 2008, a set-up fee of $25 per line applies. **7.** Discount applies to monthly recurring service fees for eligible services. Not all services are available in all areas. Go to **fido.ca/bundles** for details. **8.** Pricing based on 8 GB version with subscription to 3-year term plan with minimum $30 monthly service fee. Early cancellation fees apply.

Applies to all plans: Local airtime over the allotted monthly minutes in the plan, long distance and roaming charges and any additional service options selected and applicable taxes are extra and are billed monthly. An Early Cancellation Fee applies to all subscribers with a Fido Agreement.

Subject to Fido's Acceptable Use Policy. Plans available until February 2, 2009. Fido reserves the right to change the products and services described in this document, as well as the pricing, at any time.

™Fido & design, **FULL**FIDO and FidoDollars are trademarks of Fido Solutions Inc. Rogers is a trademark of Rogers Communications Inc., used under license. Apple, the Apple logo and iPhone are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the US and other countries. All other brand names and logos are trademarks of their respective owners. © 2008 Fido Solutions Inc.

the new fido™

Giving low prices a good home.

Interest rates/Savings accounts
METRO NEWS SERVICES

BMO	CIBC	ICICI	ING	PCF	RBC	Scotia	TD
0.75%	0.2%	2.5%	2.7%	2.75%	2.5%	2.6%	0.05%

Note: Please check bank websites as some rates require a minimum account balance.

Your Money

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

On bended knee, wallet open

SmartCookies

smartcookies.com

Believe it or not, December is the most popular time for wedding proposals. This month, men everywhere will talk to protective parents, kiss their single life goodbye and commit to thousands of dollars on an engagement ring.

So for all of you out there contemplating martial bliss, we know you have a lot of questions and are probably looking for some ways to keep your costs down. And trust us when we say skimping on the ring is not your best option.

Here are a few ways to help you stretch your dollar before you pop the question:

A Diamond is a Diamond, Whether it's from Tiffany or Costco

The first step in choosing a diamond is having a clear understanding of the quality factors, commonly referred to as the "4 C's": colour, clarity, cut and carat.

Once you determine the combination that is right for you, we suggest you skip the brand-name. The only difference in a brand-name diamond is the label and the price tag — which can be up to 50 per cent more! And let's be honest, most of the women we know would rather have a bigger rock over a ritzy designer.

Ask for a Discount for Paying Cash

Depending on the profit margin, many jewellers will be willing to sell you your diamond at a lower price to avoid having to deal with fees from credit card companies.

Buying Rings as a Set Can Save Money

Often if you purchase your engagement ring and wedding ring as a set, you can save.

White Gold Looks like Platinum but Is Less Expensive

If you are looking for silver-tone jewelry but don't want to pay platinum prices, consider a ring made with white gold. Not only is white gold less expensive, but it is actually harder to scratch and damage.

Something to be Said for Sentiment

If either you or your partner has a family heirloom, antique jewelry from a loved one can be some of the most beautiful and sentimental. But if it isn't exactly what you had in mind, consider personalizing it by upgrading the diamond or band. You will still likely save money in the long run.

How Much Should You Really Spend?

Spend what you feel comfortable with. Resist the pressure from advertisers who imply that if you are not spending between one to three month's salary, you don't love your honey. Spend less, spend more, spend what YOU want. Just bear in mind this ring will be with you for a lifetime.

If you are looking for more money-saving tips, contact us at smartcookies@metronews.ca or visit smartcookies.com.

And check out our book, now available at bookstores everywhere: Smart Cookies Guide to Making More Dough.

Tune in Wednesday night at 9 p.m. EST/PST on the W Network and be sure to visit smartcookies.com for more tips.

Investing

Allan Small

The week's column poses the question: Should you borrow to invest now? Visit metronews.ca

ICICI Bank
Apply online: www.icicibank.ca

Dickens: Financial adviser?

MoneyMatters

Henry Choo Chong

choochonghcga@yahoo.ca

Q Last month, our company went to a four-day work week. My wife continues to work but we could run into some problems sooner than later. Would a financial advisor help with our concerns? Sondeep

A Having a good financial advisor on your side is always good, particularly in these economic times. Set a time to see one.

Don't be Scrooge but instead learn from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The irony is that Dickens' initial inspiration to write this classic was his need to get out of debt.

Christmas Past

Some things, once broken, cannot be mended. Fortunately, credit is not one of them. Pull your credit and review carefully. Have the credit bureau correct any errors and negotiate to pay off judgements.

Christmas Present

Plan now for the future. Create a household budget and stick to it. Pay all your bills on time, payments should not mimic the stock market.

Christmas Yet to Come

The steps you take now will have a direct impact on your financial future. Don't forget George Orwell's famous quote: "Who controls the past, controls the future: Who controls the present controls the past."

Reach Henry Choo Chong, CGA, at choochonghcga@yahoo.ca.

Make the season even more joyful with a HiVALUE® Chequing Account

Earn up to 1.50% interest on your Chequing Account
- Free Online Bill Payments
- Free Unlimited Access to over 2,200 ABM's[1]
- Free First Cheque Book
- Free Unlimited Interac® Direct Payments

Surrey Branch
7110-120th Street, Unit 110
604-595-4080 x 224

Vancouver Branch
569 Howe Street
604-646-4160 x 222

Apply Now
icicibank.ca 1-888-424-2422 Visit one of our branches

HiVALUE® CHEQUING ACCOUNT | ICICI Bank

[1]Neither ICICI Bank Canada nor any of THE EXCHANGE network ABM providers impose a surcharge for ABM deposits, withdrawals and inquiries. Rates are as of December 11, 2008 and are available only on Canadian Dollar HiVALUE Chequing Account. Rates will apply to the balances in the accounts of new and existing customers. All interest rates are expressed on a per annum basis and are subject to change any time without notice. Interest on a Canadian Dollar HiVALUE Chequing Account is calculated on the daily closing balance and paid monthly. Rates are subject to the account balance requirements – First C$ 1,000.00 (balance between C$ 0.00 to C$ 1,000.00) – 0.00% p.a., Next C$ 1,500.00 (balance between C$ 1,000.01 to C$ 2,500) – 1.00% p.a., Over C$ 2,500.00 (balance from C$ 2,500.01 and above) – 1.50% p.a.. Terms and conditions apply and can be found at icicibank.ca. The ICICI Bank name and logo and the HiVALUE name are trademarks of ICICI Bank Limited and are used under license.

Lions sign Vancouver Island junior star

The B.C. Lions announced yesterday that they have signed non-import running back Andrew Harris. Harris compiled a number of record-breaking performances for theVancouver Island Raiders in the junior ranks last season, leading them to a Canadian Bowl championship. The Leos also announced they have released defensive lineman Tyrone Williams. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

"I think race was the No. 1 factor ... Out of all the coaches they interviewed, Chizik probably had the worst resumé."

Former NBA star Charles Barkley to ESPN on his alma mater, Auburn, hiring Gene Chizik as head football coach. Barkley said University of Buffalo coach and former CFL player Turner Gill, who is black, was more qualified. ESPN.COM

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

The Big Apple or Van City?

Both have upsides for Mats Sundin as he takes his pick

Mats Sundin is expected to finalize his playing future as early as tomorrow.

Sources in Sweden say his Swedish representative Claes Elefalk has told media in Stockholm to call tomorrow to learn which team Sundin has chosen to continue his NHL career with.

That decision could be made tomorrow, and certainly no later than the NHL holiday roster freeze, which begins Friday.

Sundin has ruled out both Philadelphia and Chicago. Reports say the short list is now down to Vancouver and the Rangers. Sundin visited with New York Rangers GM Glenn Sather this weekend and took in a Rangers game in a private box at Madison Square Garden on Saturday night.

Sources say Sundin has been eyeing a contender-status team, and on a wish list, would like to play in a city with world-class restaurants, theatre and culture — a wish list that New York can answer like no other city in the NHL.

The Rangers, though, also play the Leafs this season, and it's believed Sundin would rather avoid a scenario where he would face the Leafs in a new uniform.

Vancouver face the Leafs in Toronto on Feb. 21, while the Rangers play a home-and-home series with the Leafs beginning Feb. 22 in New York and returning to Toronto on Feb. 25.

The Rangers reportedly have not offered Sundin a contract, and based on salary-cap issues, that offer is expected to be far less than the Canucks, who have plenty of cap space and have offered $20 million over two seasons.

Sundin, who spent the past month working out in Los Angeles, left New York on Sunday and is said to be spending Christmas back home in Sweden.

He will join his new team immediately after the holiday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sources believe Sundin will make his decision by Friday at the lastest.

New junior equation; fourth time a charm for Esposito

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Team Canada's roster is set for a run at a fifth straight gold medal at the world junior hockey championship.

Head coach Pat Quinn and chief scout Al Murray unveiled their 22-man squad yesterday in Ottawa, and sent 16 players packing following a three-day selection camp.

The roster follows a non-traditional format, with 12 forwards and eight defencemen instead of the usual 13-7 breakdown. This was to accommodate 17-year-old power-play specialist Ryan Ellis, who is not ready for regular ice if injuries hit. The team will be led offensively by returnees John Tavares and Zach Boychuk along with Vancouver Canucks first-rounder Cody Hodgson and relative unknown Jamie Benn.

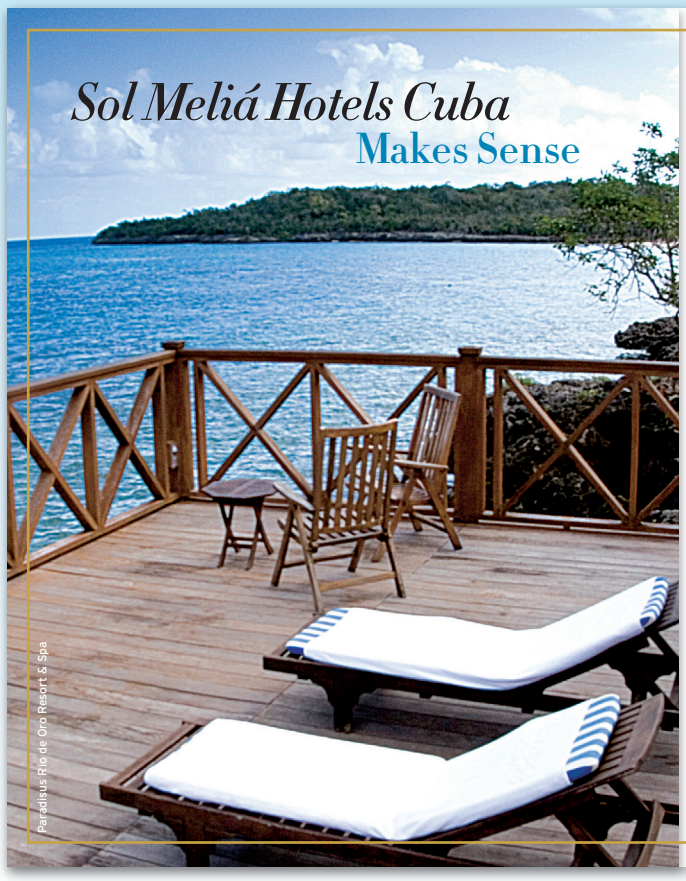
Angelo Esposito was chosen on his fourth try.

Returnees Thomas Hickey, the team's captain, and Montreal Canadiens draftee P.K. Subban anchor the defence corps, along with NHL first-rounders Tyler Myers (Buffalo), Alex Pietrangelo (St. Louis) and Colten Teubert (L.A.).

In goal are Chet Pickard, a Nashville Predators first-rounder, and Memorial Cup MVP Dustin Tokarski.

Also of note, Montreal Junior forward Angelo Esposito made the roster after being cut three straight times. The tournament starts Boxing Day in Ottawa.

AIR CANADA VACATIONS



EARN UP TO 5,150 AEROPLAN® MILES PER MEMBER†

Santa Clara via Toronto
Meliá Las Dunas • 4★
All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 5-28 • 1 wk.
$1549
Taxes & fees: $229
Please add $50 for Sat. departures

Cayo Coco / Cayo Guillermo via Toronto
TRYP Cayo Coco • 4★
All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1-28 • 1 wk.
$1549
Taxes & fees: $229
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

Meliá Cayo Coco • 4 1/2★
All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1-28 • 1 wk.
$1789
Taxes & fees: $229
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

Varadero via Toronto
Sol Sirenas Coral Resort • 3★
All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1-23 • 1 wk.
$1629
Taxes & fees: $229
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

Meliá Varadero • 4★
All-Inclusive
Standard rm.
Feb. 1-23 • 1 wk.
$1829
Taxes & fees: $229
Please add $50 for Sat. & Sun. departures

Holguin via Toronto
Paradisus Rio de Oro Resort & Spa • 5★
All-Inclusive
Junior suite
Feb. 5-28 • 1 wk.
$2189
Taxes & fees: $229
Please add $50 for Sat. departures

aeroplan
Sol Meliá Hotels CUBA
Makes Sense

CONNECT FREE[1]
Kamloops • Kelowna • Penticton • Nanaimo • Victoria

aircanadavacations.com
Call 1 866 529-2079 or your travel agent

Departure taxes are extra and must be paid locally: Cuba, 25 CUC cash. Prices in this ad are valid for bookings made between Dec. 16 & 20/08, inclusive. Prices are per person based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, from Vancouver International Airport. New bookings only. Subject to availability. Not applicable to group bookings. Sale prices reflect applicable reductions, are subject to change without notice and cannot be combined with any other offer or promotion. Flights operated by Air Canada. For applicable terms and conditions, consult the Air Canada Vacations brochures. BC registration #32229. †Aeroplan Miles are not actual miles, but points towards rewards including travel rewards. Unless otherwise indicated, Aeroplan Miles indicated are based on roundtrip Economy class per passenger from Vancouver to Holguin via Toronto, are awarded on flight-inclusive travel only, and are per Aeroplan member. For the amount of Aeroplan Miles that can be earned when flying to other destinations, visit www.aircanadavacations.com. For terms and conditions of the Aeroplan program, consult www.aeroplan.com. ■ [1]Available in conjunction with flight-inclusive packages. Non-stop flights via Vancouver. Excluding USA & Europe destinations. ■ ®Aeroplan is a registered trademark of Aeroplan Limited Partnership. ®Air Canada Vacations is a registered trademark of Air Canada, used under license by Touram Limited Partnership. Visit www.aircanadavacations.com for up-to-date information.

GOING TO WORK?

MAKE SURE YOUR MONEY IS TOO.

1% BONUS

Grow your savings even faster with a Tax-Free Savings Account (TFSA)

Open a TFSA High Rate Savings Account today. Beginning January 2nd, 2009, you can transfer up to $5,000 in new money from your High Rate Savings Account to your TFSA High Rate Savings Account, plus keep the 1% bonus interest rate.[2] With every penny earning bonus interest and the income earned on your savings tax-free, your money will work even harder to speed up the growth of your savings.

For a limited time, earn an extra 1% interest[1] on top of HSBC's already high rates on new money deposited into a High Rate Savings Account as of November 24, 2008.

Visit your local HSBC branch, call 1-888-310-4722 or click **hsbc.ca/taxfree** to supersize your savings.

HSBC

The world's local bank

Issued by HSBC Bank Canada

[1]You will earn 1% bonus interest on top of our High Rate Savings Account interest rate on any new monies deposited into your High Rate Savings Account (up to $500,000) during the promotional period of November 24, 2008 to March 16, 2009 from the day new monies are deposited. This promotion may be amended, extended or cancelled at the sole discretion of HSBC at any time, without prior notice. [2]Specific terms and conditions apply. The 1% bonus interest will be applicable on any new monies transferred in from your High Rate Savings Account to your High Rate TFSA for the remainder of the Promotional Period. Please see your local HSBC branch for details, visit hsbc.ca/taxfree or call 1-888-310-4722. This promotion may be amended, extended or cancelled at the sole discretion of HSBC at any time, without prior notice.

Reward dry, tired fingers

If you or someone on your Christmas list could use some healing power that lingers, try J.R. Watkitins Cuticle Salve, $4.79 to $8.99. Perfect for gardeners, this all-natural salve comes in three fanciful flavours: Vanilla and lemon cream, aloe & green tea and mango. Available at *watkinsonline.com*. METRO

Health & Beauty

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE COLACINO, ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Is your holiday hook up set to expire? Take our quiz to find out!

Hooking up this holiday

Seems presents aren't the only things people are shopping for in the holiday rush. According to a recent study from speed dating service FastLife.ca, hook ups peak in the period leading up to the holidays.

In the last three years, FastLife noticed that speed-dating match rates hover around 82 per cent on average from January to October, but by the end of November match rates rise to 95 to 100 per cent where they remain until the new year.

I realize it's in their interest to encourage hook ups, but it makes sense. With all the parties and family get-togethers at this time of year we all want someone to smooch under the mistletoe or to get a misguided gift from.

And, as Gabriela Asenjo, FastLife's events manager, says, "People let their guard down more easily and are less picky at pre-Christmas events."

But, while it may be as easy as shooting fish in a barrel to hook up with someone who will (theoretically, at least) help ease that lonesome feeling through the holidays, actually surviving the holidays together might prove to be a little more challenging.

Take this quiz to see if your relationship will make it:

1. You bring your date to your office party:

a) You can't have fun because you've constantly got your eye on your date fearing he's telling your colleagues about how the CIA covered up his alien abduction.

b) Your colleagues go on and on the next day about what a catch your date is.

c) At the end of the night, you find your date under your desk making out with your boss.

2. Your date's idea of a great Christmas gift is:

a) His and hers matching door-stoppers.

b) A romantic weekend away and a tasteful nude self-portrait.

c) Waiting until after Christmas "when everything's on sale" to get your gift.

3. One of you isn't Christian, how do you celebrate the holidays?

a) Say you'd be happy to celebrate Christmas, if afterwards, your honey agrees to a week-long Bhuddist retreat where you chant for eight hours a day.

b) Light the menorah and spin the dreidel before exchanging gifts under the Christmas tree.

c) Tell your date to deal, you're not about to let a little thing like someone's religion spoil your holiday.

4. Your mom gives your date a really ugly sweater as a gift, you:

a) Force your sweetie to wear it and then giggle maniacally.

b) Wear it to bed with him … with nothing on underneath.

c) Come across it later in a bucket full of rags your date uses to clean the floor.

5. An ex gives your date an expensive present:

a) Tell the ex you bought your date the same thing but took it back because you thought it was tacky.

b) Call up the ex to say thank you for the gift, and send an invite for dinner.

c) "Accidentally" trip over it and break it.

If you answered mostly a's, put on your helmets, hide all sharp objects and you might make it.

If you answered mostly b's, dust off your copy of It's a Wonderful Life and warm up some rum and cider. You guys will make everyone sick with your holiday bliss.

If you answered mostly c's, there's still time to end things before you blow a wad of cash on him or her.

Happy Holidays and good luck!

Josey Vogels is a sex and relationship columnist and author of five books on the subjects. For more info, visit joseyvogels.com.

MAX Dental @ Yaletown

NEW PATIENTS PACKAGE
$199* APPROX. $325 VALUE
EXPIRES DEC. 31/2008
Ask about "Whitening for Life"
* Includes check-up and cleaning and choose from a FREE take home whitening kit OR electric toothbrush OR $199 Zoom Whitening (reg. $399). *Some exceptions may apply.*
WE DO BOTOX!
The MAX Dental @ Yaletown
90 Smithe Street 604.609.2020 www.yaletowndentists.com

HAPPINESS
She's going back to turn her life around.
BEING Erica
beingerica.ca

ORGANIKA
ORGANIKA
Relieve Osteoarthritis Pain Naturally...

www.organika.com
Consumers Nutrition
Richmond Center, 1112 - 6551 No. 3 Road, Richmond, BC V6Y 2B6
604-270-0007

In brief

STRANGE BUT TRUE

The stories of people who turn grey overnight are actually rare cases of sudden hair loss (which is related to a condition known as alopecia areata) that may leave only the more resistant grey hairs rooted in the scalp.

HAIR'S STEM CELLS

The abundant supply of stem cells that are in the hair bulb may one day be harnessed for a wide range of regenerative treatments, from wound healing to nerve repair.

BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Dark Knight makes AFI list
Batman film The Dark Knight has been named as one of the Top 10 movies of 2008 by the American Film Institute. Others include political biopic Milk, animated fantasy Wall-E and Brad Pitt's The Curious Case of Benjamin Button. **BBC NEWS ONLINE**

Entertainment

Nobel Man

Bono has been awarded the annual Nobel Man of Peace prize for his efforts to combat poverty, debt and disease in Africa. The U2 frontman was honoured at a ceremony in Paris.
FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

The Human touch

Show the animals you care with a BC SPCA *Paw*sitive Gift!
www.PawsitiveGifts.ca

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Brandy's new album Human tackles the subject of celebrity head on.

Speaking the day before the album's release, Brandy (full name Brandy Norwood) said the project reflects a desire to be more up-front and personal — a tough choice in today's pop culture.

"It seems like everything's perfect (with celebrities), but it's not, (and) emotionally we're all the same," said the singer, who released her first album as a teenager. "I've been able to achieve all my dreams, and I love having achieved so much at a young age. But I realize there's quite a lot going on in the public eye … people can make judgments."

This statement is particularly true given the degree to which celebrities' private lives are captured and broadcast. Along with the usual suspects, Brandy too felt the sting of public perception after she revealed she wasn't actually married to the father of her daughter Sy'rai, Robert Smith. She felt like the story would come out eventually, and so decided to approach it head-on, on the cusp of an album release.

SONY BMG PHOTO

Human, the latest album from R&B singer Brandy, is now in stores.

"(Back then) I was feeling like I had to be dishonest about the situation," said Brandy. "Being a role model, people look up to you, and you don't want to disappoint them … (and you're) under so much pressure.

"I wanted to tell the truth and say that honestly won't happen again."

This strategy to directly confront personal stories extends to Brandy's new album. A group effort, with Brandy collaborating with several writers and producers, the songs focus on relationships, as heard on tracks like Long Distance and album closer Fall, a duet co-written with British pop singer Natasha Bedingfield.

"Natasha is the sweetest person — her energy and vibe is amazing," said Brandy. "Fall is about not being afraid to be in love, even if you're scared. We had so much fun recording the song. We were like little kids in the studio, having fun but still working hard.

"The Human (concept) is just about being you — being who and what you are," she said. "I'm trying to describe what's it's like to be a human being, since that's what we all are at the end of day."

Madonna settles divorce

Madonna has paid her ex-husband British director Guy Ritchie up to 60 million pounds ($92 million US) to settle their divorce after eight years of marriage, her spokeswoman said yesterday.

Liz Rosenberg said the singer, 50, had given Ritchie, 40, between 50 and 60 million pounds ($76 million and $92 million) as part of their divorce, which was granted by a British court on Nov. 21.

She said that sum includes the couple's English country estate, Ashcombe, which is valued at about 20 million pounds ($30 million). The couple's combined wealth has been estimated at about $525 million, but Madonna accounts for most of it.

Rosenberg said custody arrangements for the couple's children have not been finalized. Madonna and Ritchie have an 8-year-old son, Rocco, and 3-year-old son David, adopted from Malawi. The singer also has a daughter Lourdes, born in 1996, from her relationship with fitness trainer Carlos Leon. Madonna and Ritchie announced their split in October, nearly eight years after their wedding. **REUTERS**

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 12/16/08	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002, Comedy) Tim Allen. (CC)				CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News	The Insider	The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N) (CC)				Momma's Boys (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Law & Order "Zero" (CC)		Criminal Minds (CC)		(:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Islam 101 (CC)		9B (CC)		Scrubs (CC)	The Search	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	House (PA) (CC)		(:01) NCIS "Silent Night" (N)		Kitchen Nightmares (CC)		News (N)
	256	389	12 VI	Instant Star	TMZ (N) (CC)	Fringe "The Arrival" (CC)		The Mentalist (N) (CC)		Eli Stone (N) (CC)		News (CC)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Privileged (CC)		According-Jim	According-Jim	Hates Chris	Friends (CC)	EP Daily
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	90210 "Secrets and Lies"		Privileged (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	NCIS "Silent Night" (N) (CC)		The Mentalist (N) (CC)		(:01) Without a Trace (N)		News (N)
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	The Biggest Loser: Families (Season Finale) (N) (CC)				Momma's Boys (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19 W	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	Holiday Wishes (2006, Drama) Amber Benson.				Grocery Bag
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	A Charlie Brown Christmas		According-Jim	According-Jim	Eli Stone (N) (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Look Who's Talking ★★ (1989) John Travolta, Kirstie Alley.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	About-Money	Command Performance						Wayne Dyer
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House (PA) (CC)		(:01) Fringe "The Arrival"		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43 PBS	Change Your Brain, Change		Magnificent Mind at Any Age-Amen			The Brain Fitness Program			Change Your
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	NBA Basketball		90210 "Secrets and Lies"		Privileged (CC)		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	(6:30) NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Edmonton Oilers.				According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Paid Program	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) The Biggest Loser: Families (CC)			Will & Grace
news	502	390	26 NW	Wal-Mart Nation (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Wal-Mart Nation (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	Canucks TV (N)		Hockey	UFC: Access	Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	(6:30) NHL Hockey Chicago Blackhawks at Edmonton Oilers.				SportsCentre	In This Corner	Poker Night (Taped)		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Which Way to... "Lapland"		Pilot Guides (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Survivorman (CC)		Angry Planet
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Hot Import	Hot Import	Pinks	Pass Time	Low Life	Low Life	Super Bikes!	Super Bikes!	Hot Import
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol Alemán: Equipos SA		Gol TV News		Hallo Bundesliga		Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	OddParents	Rocko's Life	Mon. Warriors	Sabrina-Witch	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Santa Claus	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Rick & Steve
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56 TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Gardens	Recreat. Eden	Sacred Music (N) (CC)		The Museum	Art	The Rise and Fall of Grumpy Burger (N)		
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Cheerleaders	Cheerleaders	Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	You Can Dance		VMA 08 Remix Celeb Replay (CC)				MuchOnDemand (CC)		MuchMeg
	600	564	29 H&G	Colin & Justin's Home Heist		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Sarah's House	Design Inc.	Pure Design	Style	Colin-Justin
	615	520	31 A&E	Manhunters: Fugitive		Jacked: Theft	Jacked: Theft	The First 48 (CC)		The First 48 (CC)		Manhunters
	628	584	32 SPKE	UFC Unleashed		MANswers	MANswers	CSI: NY "Stealing Home"		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34 TLC	Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Shocking Story (CC)		Mystery Diagnosis (CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		My Skin Could
	616	522	39 SHO	About a Girl	About a Girl	The Best Years		Testees (N)	Trailer Park	House "Act Your Age" (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40 BVO	Manilow	Bravo!Videos	Law & Order "Stiff" (CC)		Without a Trace "Life Rules"		The Small Back Room ★★★ (1949) (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Matchmaker	Date My Ex: Jo & Slade		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	Dirty Jobs Vermont cheese.		Daily Planet (CC)		Destroyed	Destroyed	Dirty Jobs Vermont cheese.		How It's Made
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "Frame-Up" (CC)		Outlaw Bikers Hells Angels.		Ax Men (CC)		NCIS "Frame-Up" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45 SPC	Rabbit Fall	The Circuit	Stargate SG-1 (CC)		Lost (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47 TBS	The Office	The Office	Frank TV (N)	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Get Smart's Bruce and Lloyd Out of Control			Frank TV
	619	525	48 TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Planet Soap	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	King	Family Guy
	603	561	52 FN	Chef School	At the Table	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge Speed cooking.		The F Word (CC)		Chef School
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	S. Silverman	Flt.-Conchords	Daily Show
	320	621	60 CEN	The Kingdom ★★ (2007) Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper. (CC)				Crossing ★★ (2005) Sebastian Spence, Crystal Buble. (CC)				Dragon Wars
	581	566	101 MTV	A Double Shot of Love (N)		MTV Live	After	Dance Life	Dance Life	A Double Shot of Love (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	(6:00) The Christmas Shoes		Celtic Angels at Christmas		The Christmas Shoes (2002, Drama) Rob Lowe. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	109 MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Officina Italian	Qui si Parla	In Germany	Euromaxx	Schauplatz	Euro. Journal	Patrol World

critics'corner

NCIS
It's the hap, happiest time of the year. But you'd never know it. Gibbs (Mark Harmon) and the rest of the team are forced to put in overtime while searching for a suspect on a case over Christmas. The real problem arises when they discover their prime suspect has been dead for 17 years. Talk about your "Silent Nights." Michael Weatherly and Pauley Perrette also star. 4 PM on STR

Momma's Boys
Paging Norman Bates. Dating shows have enough drama without throwing in Mom, for heaven's sake. But that's what this new series is all about; it's "The Bachelor" meets "Big Brother" at Big Momma's House. It puts several meddling moms and their sons together in a house with a selection of eligible single females who have to pass muster with Mom before they can get close to their guy of choice. And we get to watch. Oh, joy. 10 PM on JOY NBC

Read this week's DVD reviews online at metronews.ca/entertainment

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
Read it at metronews.ca

See complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and purchase tickets at metronews.ca/movies

GlobalStyle

Kenya Hunt
Monica Cruz on Mango, exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Wedding bells for Hendricks
Christina Hendricks, who plays the bombshell head secretary on the Emmy-winning Mad Men, is engaged to actor Geoffrey Arend. No wedding date has been set. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

The Britney and Madonna tour?

RUMOUR Britney Spears is planning to unveil pop star Madonna as a surprise guest when she kicks off her comeback tour next year, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Spears joined Madonna onstage in Los Angeles last month during the U.S. leg of her Sticky & Sweet tour, and Spears wants Madonna to return the favour when she hits the road in New Orleans, La., in March.

"I'm choreographing and set-designing her show," Spears' choreographer Wade Robson reveals. "There's been talk of Madonna making an appearance, and there's so many places we could take that. At this point the main issue is timing."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Fame carries trade offs: Will

FAME Actor Will Smith is happy to sign autographs for fans, because it means he can leap to the front of the queue in posh restaurants, imdb.com reports.

Smith insists he never moans about the constant attention he receives from paparazzi or movie-goers as it is the price he pays for fame. And he is adamant that by always agreeing to give fans his signature, he earns the right to be treated like a star.

"By being famous, you're afforded rights that other people who aren't famous aren't afforded. If I'm going to walk to the front of the line (at the restaurant) because I'm Will Smith, then I have to sign all the autographs," Smith tells USA Today.

"If I don't want to sign any autographs, I don't walk to the front of the line. It's that simple. Stand in the line with everybody else."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Moss cancels bash on partner's orders

RELATIONSHIP Kate Moss has cancelled her proposed New Year's Eve party on the orders of her boyfriend, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The supermodel was planning to attend a star-studded bash in St. Tropez, in the South of France, but her Kills guitarist partner Jamie Hince has insisted she spend the day at home with him and her six-year-old daughter Lila Grace, from a previous relationship.

The couple will see in 2009 at her Oxfordshire home, in the United Kingdom.

"They're back together but they are still arguing about how much Kate goes out," a source says. "Jamie says Kate needs to calm her lifestyle down but she still likes to party. She loves him but she hates the fact he tries to rein her in all the time."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

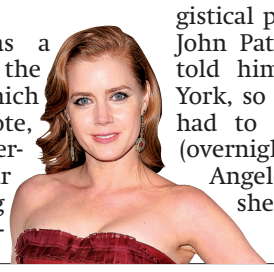
Adams an eager actress

CAREER Amy Adams begged Doubt director John Patrick Shanley to cast her in the movie, even after he offered her part to Natalie Portman, imdb.com reports.

Adams was a huge fan of the story, which Shanley wrote, and was desperate to appear in the big screen adaptation, despite the odds being stacked up against her.

Even after Portman said no, and Adams was offered the role of Sister James, she had to overcome a logistical problem. "I lied to John Patrick Shanley and told him I was in New York, so when he called, I had to get the red eye (overnight flight) from Los Angeles, to get there," she says.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Osbourne in hot water after insult leads to scrap

DISPUTE Sharon Osbourne is under police investigation after allegedly scuffling with a contestant during a taping of her U.S. reality TV show Rock Of Love: Charm School, imdb.com reports.

Osbourne is said to have flipped when Megan Hauserman insulted her by saying she is only famous because of her marriage to Black Sabbath singer Ozzy Osbourne.

The rock matriarch allegedly ran across the stage, grabbed Hauserman by the hair, and scratched her.

TMZ.com reports that the pair had to be pulled apart by security guards.

Hauserman went to hospital the following afternoon and filed a report with the Los Angeles Police Department that night.

Authorities have confirmed Osbourne is a suspect in a minor battery allegation but that no charges have been filed.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

No rush to have kids: Eva

PEOPLE Eva Mendes is in "no rush" to have children, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Despite being happy in her private life, the actress — who is in a long-term relationship with producer George Gargurevich — does not feel ready to start a family.

"It's great that women can work and have kids but I'm in no rush," she said. "I was joking the other day that everywhere you look there is a celebrity having a baby, and I said I hoped I didn't catch it. There are just so many things I want to do."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Watts welcomes second child

BIRTH Naomi Watts and Liev Schreiber welcomed their second boy Saturday, People.com reports.

A couple since 2005, Watts, 40, and Schreiber, 41, already have a boy, Alexander Pete Schreiber, born July 26, 2007.

Earlier this year, Watts boasted of her first-born, "He's turning pages in the book. He's crawling and standing up. He can wave. I read Goodnight Moon to him every night."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lazing around is sexy: Beyoncé

PEOPLE Pop star Beyoncé Knowles feels sexiest for husband Jay-Z when lazing around her house with bare feet and messy hair, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

"Our relationship is very easy," she British tabloid News of The World.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workaholic Jay-Z decks out studio

CAREER Rapper Jay-Z has reportedly furnished his recording studio with a sleep-sized sofa, a bar table, bar stools and a glass coffee table because he spends so much time there, PageSix.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

WE CAN GIVE YOU A GIFT RECEIPT, BUT YOU PROBABLY WON'T NEED IT.

Holiday by the Fire

Holiday by the Fire and many more beautifully designed gift packs, filled with goodness and priced under $20, are available at your neighbourhood Starbucks. We aren't expecting many returns. So stop by, warm up, and cross some names off your list.

STARBUCKS COFFEE

The Cheer is Here.

© 2008 Starbucks Coffee Company. All rights reserved.

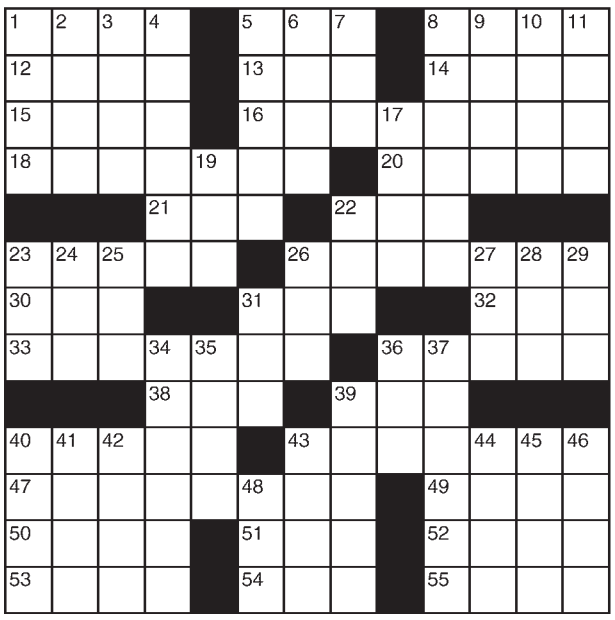
The Weather Network
©The Weather Network 2008

Today: Partly cloudy -2° / -4°
Wednesday: Variable -1° / -7°
Thursday: Sunny -4° / -7°

WeatherEye... Free App Available on iPhone.

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: **metronews.ca/food**

Take Five



Crossword across

1 Provo's state
5 Big bother
8 Snare
12 Bargain basement event
13 Mediterranean, e.g.
14 Crosby's longtime pal
15 Cicatrix
16 Cooperstown non-honoree
18 Flower's fleshy fruit
20 "Psycho" locale
21 Exactly as written
22 Pirate's beverage
23 Follows orders
26 Pelvis portion
30 Kanga's kid
31 Suitcase
32 "Smoking or —?"
33 Arid
36 Pottery fragment
38 Afternoon affair
39 Gorilla
40 Halloween figure
43 Terra firma
47 Fred Mertz, for one
49 Entreaty
50 Sheltered
51 Egg — yung
52 And others (Lat.)
53 Rolling stone's lack
54 Springtime mo.
55 Lasso

Crossword down

1 Cold War initials
2 Mexican entree
3 "Sad to say"
4 Inquisition crime
5 Jellied mold
6 Profound
7 Cereal grass
8 Blood clot (Pref.)
9 Source
10 Church section
11 Rind
17 Shoot- — (violent movie)
19 That guy's
22 Predetermine
23 Sphere
24 Greet the villain
25 A billion years
26 Dinner for Dobbin
27 Three-match link
28 Neither mate
29 Conclusion
31 Underwear with underwire
34 Chopin pieces
35 Farmer's place?
36 James Bond, e.g.
37 Assistant
39 Passion
40 Showy attractiveness
41 Angel's topper
42 Individuals
43 Let fall
44 Chorus member
45 Tide variety
46 Evans or Carnegie
48 "Son — gun!"

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

2								8
	9	3				7	5	
			6	4	7			
		1	5	8	2	9		
8	5						6	1
		7	1	6	3	5		
			8	2	9			
	8	9				4	2	
6								3

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

A	L	T	O	■	D	E	C	■	S	T	A	B
B	O	O	N	■	I	M	A	■	T	I	D	E
A	C	R	E	■	S	U	P	R	E	M	E	S
B	I	N	D	E	R	■	S	E	V	E	N	S
■	■	■	G	A	O	L	■	F	E	Z	■	■
S	U	P	E	R	B	A	D	■	N	O	N	E
E	K	E	■	P	E	P	E	S	■	N	U	N
Z	E	T	A	■	S	U	P	P	R	E	S	S
■	■	E	D	O	■	P	E	R	I	■	■	■
E	R	R	A	N	T	■	N	Y	L	O	N	S
S	U	P	P	O	S	E	D	■	I	R	O	N
P	L	A	T	■	A	G	O	■	N	A	N	O
Y	E	N	S	■	R	O	N	■	G	L	O	W

4	3	1	6	9	8	7	2	5
8	2	7	3	5	1	6	9	4
9	6	5	2	4	7	1	8	3
2	9	4	8	1	5	3	6	7
3	5	6	4	7	2	8	1	9
1	7	8	9	3	6	4	5	2
6	4	3	1	2	9	5	7	8
5	1	2	7	8	3	9	4	6
7	8	9	5	6	4	2	3	1

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Bean and Mushroom Burgers

INGREDIENTS:

1 15-oz (400-g) can red kidney beans
2 medium red onions, about 8 oz (200g) in total
4 tbsp (60 mL) olive oil
2 tbsp (25 mL) red wine vinegar
2 tbsp (25 mL) raw sugar
8 oz (200 g) button mushrooms
1 clove garlic
1 tbsp (15 mL) garam masala
2 tbsp (25 mL) whole-wheat flour
1 small bunch of fresh mint
Salt and black pepper

METHOD:

1. Rinse beans well and spread out on a dish towel to drain. Peel onions.
2. For red onion relish, heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of olive oil in saucepan. Slice one onion thinly and add to pan with vinegar and sugar. Bring to boil, stirring, then reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 15–20 minutes, until onion is softened and slightly sticky, stirring from time to time. Remove pan from heat and keep warm.
3. Quarter other onion and put into a food processor. Clean mushrooms, add to the onion, and process until finely chopped. Alternatively, chop them both finely by hand.
4. Heat 1 tbsp (15 mL) of olive oil in frying pan, add onion-and-mushroom mixture, and cook over medium-high heat, stirring occasionally for 5–8 minutes, until golden and dry.
5. Peel garlic and crush into mushroom mixture. Stir in garam masala and flour, and cook for 1 minute. Chop enough mint to make 2 tbsp (25 mL). Remove pan from heat, add mint, and season with salt and pepper.
6. Put kidney beans on a deep plate and mash firmly with potato masher, then stir in cooled mushroom mixture.
7. Divide mixture into four and, with lightly floured hands, shape each serving into a burger.
8. Heat remaining 2 tbsp (25 mL) oil in a large frying pan, add bean burgers, and cook over medium-high heat for 6–8 minutes, turning once, until well browned. Warm pita breads.
9. Arrange burgers on a warm dish or individual plates and spoon onion relish over tops. Serve with warm pitas and a green salad. **SERVES 4**

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Jealousy will cause a man to lose the plot. A sudden reversal makes you pensive. Someone's sarcasm takes on new meaning.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Being reliable and motivated will do wonders for your health. Role playing will cause a problem. Wastefulness will get a lot of attention.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A truth-teller will enjoy a victory. A sweetheart finally learns to apologize. Harmful brainwashing can be eliminated with effort.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Simply ignore other people's temper tantrums. Good manners will lead you into a superb offer. A serious person's hopeless plan will be praised.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Avoid a friend who has been in your way. Your resistance to decadence will weaken. You can enjoy a crisis if you're not forced to deal with it.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
You'll become a strong and mighty influence. All will be well with a passionate guy. An awkward individual will reveal a mystery.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
An older person will be forgotten. Your feelings are obvious to a tough guy. You can consolidate your gains by playing for keeps.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Don't struggle against fate — accept yours with a smile. Boastful words can be irritating at home. A dilemma may lead to a spat.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A solitary guy finds happiness. An infamous friend becomes involved in an argument. Silly strife is less than thrilling.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Don't seethe over a grievance. An opponent will knock on your door. Don't fool around trying to change the facts of life.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
A man is deeply unhappy about his rights. An explanation is out there, but you must find it. Contact with a hardship case stirs up memories.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A rift in a friendship results from a brazen smile. Peevish remarks will wound others. A heartache will dumbfound everyone.

This day in history

DEC 16, 1497: Vasco da Gama rounds the Cape of Good Hope, the point where Bartolomeu Dias had previously turned back to Portugal.
DEC 16, 1907: Great White Fleet started its circumnavigation of the world.
DEC 16, 1965: Vietnam War: General William Westmoreland sends U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara a request for 243,000 more men by the end of 1966.
DEC 16, 1985: Mafia: In New York City, Paul Castellano and Thomas Bilotti are shot dead on the orders of John Gotti, who assumes leadership of the Gambino family.

FLIGHT CENTRE Unbeatable
LAS VEGAS 4 NIGHTS
FROM $145
INCLUDES roundtrip airfare and 4 nights 3-star accom on the Las Vegas Strip. UPGRADE to 4.5-star accom from $10 per night. UPGRADE to 5-star accom from $25 per night.
1 866 519 5111 | flightcentre.ca
Conditions apply. Ex: Vancouver. Package price is per person, based on double occupancy. Prices are subject to availability at advertising deadline and are for select departure dates. Prices are accurate at time of publication, errors and omissions excepted, but are subject to change. Transportation related fees, fuel supplements, taxes and GST are excluded. BC REG: #HO2790

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. Aggravate a shop salesperson (1)
2. Whatever one-cent coin (2)
3. May sink teeth into (1)
4. One donating a holder of arrows (2)
5. Shabby and untidy TV vampire slayer (2)
6. Careful and sensible pupil (2)
7. Beatle George's military posts (3)

ANSWERS
1. IRK CLERK 2. ANY PENNY 3. MIGHT BITE 4. QUIVER GIVER
5. SCRUFFY BUFFY 6. PRUDENT STUDENT 7. HARRISONS GARRISONS

12-16-08

BEAUTY *at the Bay*

YOUR **FREE GIFT**

TRAVEL SIZE ROLLER BALL SET

Even more Irrésistible...
A taste of glam, a touch of sexiness but yet still natural... Absolutely Irrésistible Givenchy. A feminine seductive star; for the woman who is more irresistible than ever! Receive this exclusive travel size roller ball set with the purchase of any large size spray from the Givenchy women's collection.*

* While quantities last. Limit of one per client. This offer in not valid with the purchase of gift sets.